

Jenna Pusser Interview

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Fraternity/Sorority: Alpha Chi Omega

Expected Graduation Semester (i.e. Fall '09): Spring 07

University/College: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Major: English/Creative Writing

Why did you decide to go Greek?

It seemed like a really great way to meet people. I was just really excited about making genuine friends and I thought it looked fun.

What is one funny or memorable story from your Greek experience so far?

I seriously love Bid day. All the new girls are there finally after everybody has killed themselves doing rush stuff. We have our list and it is just so much fun. It's been one of my favorite days for the past four years. One time in particular we all got our girls and came back to the house where a DJ was playing and for six straight hours just girls danced in the dining room and when we liked a song we'd make him play it again.

I lived in the house my junior year and I adored every minute of it. After every cocktail we'd all go get late night food and stay in our dresses watching tv and talking about our good/bad date experiences. That would last for like three hours.

When did you start to follow Christ?

I started following the Lord when I was sixteen. Something just clicked with me in terms of living to please God and not other people. Through that I started feeling the freedom to truly be myself. I realize now that I was just learning about my creator and figuring out how I was made in the process. I understood the Gospel in its fullness when I turned eighteen. I saw other people my age really walking with the Lord as their lifestyle and it made a huge impact on my confidence in Jesus Christ's power to sustain and change people.

Please describe an event that has been a significant milestone in your spiritual journey.

I went to East Asia this past summer through Crusade and it was the entire trip I think that was truly significant. I just really felt so thankful for my salvation. The new environment was a challenge and every day felt like a fun, exciting risk. I learned to trust the Lord to provide on so many different levels and it is out of that experience I think I know him in a way that I didn't before. I saw him become real to college students there who had never even heard of Jesus Christ.

Please describe a person that has had a life-changing impact on you.

That would be three people. My parents are first and foremost my biggest supporters. They just really love each other well and love me well. I've grown up feeling as though I'm necessary to the world and that my ideas and feelings are valuable. I don't think I realized what a blessing that was until college. My bible study leader Natalie Lemarbre has challenged me on so many levels and constantly pursued me for all of college. She's helped me grow spiritually and continually prayed for me. I believe she's seen me through every major event in college and I am a different person because of her walk with the Lord and her sharing her life and family with me.

When did you start to reach out to your fraternity/sorority? Why did you?

Spring semester freshman year. I think I was beginning to understand that God could use anyone and he redeemed me of all people after a really rough first semester in which I didn't walk with the Lord in a deep way. I think I saw the need in my sorority sisters, because it so mirrored my own. As I was continually satisfied by the amazing qualities of God I wanted others to experience the same thing. I know what it's like to go from walking around striving to have it all together and failing to having faith in a God who is mighty to save and knows all of my needs. I can't strive anymore and I want to show the women I love as dear friends that they don't have to either. It's such a relief.

Is there a Greek movement (study, meeting, organization, etc.) in your House? On your campus? Please explain it for us.

Yes we have an organization that is a branch of campus crusade called Greek Life. Our vision is to pray for and see spiritual movement in every Greek house at UNC. I love it because it's geared for people from all ranges of spiritual experiences: people that are just checking the whole Jesus thing out to students that believe and have for years. It's so fun and we have meetings every week in the basement of one of the sorority houses and the fellowship is great, because we're surrounded by people who share our lifestyles (we're pretty involved) and many of them have a desire to leave a legacy in their house for the Lord. It's encouraging and real and we prayerfully meet the needs of a sector of campus that could go unreached.

Please share one or two stories of God using you to reach out to Greeks in your House or on your campus.

Well recruitment is pretty intense and after one of the rounds one night some of the girls that are in the bible study I lead were upset and feeling like the greek system was this superficial crap. I felt like the Lord enabled me to really speak truth into their hearts about redeeming our culture and giving the Gospel to women and men who were desperate for a savior. We all sat down the girl's room and prayed over it and asked God to give us his eyes to see and ears to hear, because we knew we needed those gifts from him. He provided and gave us peace about the process.

I lived in the Alpha Chi house and there are countless stories I can recall where my friends would come in and just my being there would strike up a conversation leading to spiritual things. One night my friend Amanda came in and her Grandfather had passed away. I was able to pray with her and later she sent me a note to thank me for listening. After that note, I really began to feel a burden for the girls. I would go into the basement in the mornings and pray on my knees for God to radically reveal himself to us. I think from that God gave me his love for others.

We also created a website called Fratty Tarheel.com. It's funny and a non threatening way for students to be exposed to the Gospel.

What are you expecting God to do in your House or on your campus in the next few years?

Well I love the verse in Ephesians that he can do more than we can ever ask or imagine. So I have felt free to imagine. I want to see men and women humble themselves before their creator and then be changed to embrace the way that Jesus made them. I want to see people sell out to the Lord and proclaim him all over the Greek system so new people will be exposed to Jesus every day and our lives will be full of joy and fun and peace. Basically I want them to experience abundant life! I don't ever want a Christian sorority, but I would like to recognize that Christ is ever present in the awesome houses at Carolina. We have awesome houses by the way.

After graduation, what do you plan to do?

I'm actually interning with Campus Crusade for Christ for a year. My specific focus will be Greek students.

What hobby or activity makes you come alive?

I love writing and English literature with passion. I am a creative writing minor and just lose all track of time when I'm creating stories (fiction or memoir). I'm currently writing for a young adult and children sector. I think that God is truly glorified in the delight I have in the whole process. I really experience the Lord that way.

What book has had the most impact on your spiritually?

Good question considering my passion. I am currently obsessed with Donald Miller and like his musings and insights. But if I had to choose one book that really has meant a great deal to me it would be Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ, by John Piper. It lends insight into the multifaceted character of Christ. I think it does a great job in simply dwelling on the Lord which causes realize who I am in light of my God. It's awesome and I could go on and on, but I will stop by saying Read It.

What is one piece of advice to give a Greek student out there who is trying to start a Greek ministry in their House or a Greek movement on their campus?

Do not grow weary in doing good. I didn't come up with that of course. I think it was the apostle Paul. It holds true though. By not growing weary I think the Lord has led me into a different kind of boldness. I've been working out my own salvation and desire to speak plainly about the Gospel and the fact that Jesus is available to people around us. I think Don't grow weary and Give the Gospel. The Lord will take care of the details and love on you in the process. It's really an amazing God we serve. He wants you to succeed and give him glory more than you could ever want that for yourself!!!